

April 1989

Legislative Update

Karen Alderson

Follow this and additional works at: <http://jdc.jefferson.edu/scitechnews>

[Let us know how access to this document benefits you](#)

Recommended Citation

Alderson, Karen (1989) "Legislative Update," *Sci-Tech News*: Vol. 43: Iss. 2, Article 4.

Available at: <http://jdc.jefferson.edu/scitechnews/vol43/iss2/4>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Jefferson Digital Commons. The Jefferson Digital Commons is a service of Thomas Jefferson University's [Center for Teaching and Learning \(CTL\)](#). The Commons is a showcase for Jefferson books and journals, peer-reviewed scholarly publications, unique historical collections from the University archives, and teaching tools. The Jefferson Digital Commons allows researchers and interested readers anywhere in the world to learn about and keep up to date with Jefferson scholarship. This article has been accepted for inclusion in *Sci-Tech News* by an authorized administrator of the Jefferson Digital Commons. For more information, please contact: JeffersonDigitalCommons@jefferson.edu.

Legislative Update

Karen Alderson

**Chair, Government Relations Committee
Science-Technology Division**

White House Conference

New members of the Advisory Committee on the White House Conference appointed by NCLIS include Daniel Carter and Daniel Casey, members of NCLIS; Margaret Chisholm, ALA Immediate Past President; Jerry Junkins of Texas Instruments; Carmencita Leon, member of WHCLIST from Puerto Rico; Hugh Mahoney, Office of the County Executive, Mineola, N.Y.; Jerald Newman, NCLIS Chair; and Kenneth Tomlinson of Reader's Digest and former NCLIS Chair.

President Reagan, before leaving office, announced eight of the ten White House appointments. They include: Louis W. Barnett, Political Director, Citizens for the Republic, Santa Monica, CA; William C. Cassell, President, Heidelberg College, Tiffin, Ohio; Gloria S. Hom, Chair, Economics Department, Mission College, Santa Clara, CA; Mary Jane Martinez, First Lady of Florida and school media specialist; James C. Roberts of VA, President, The American Studies Center, Washington, D.C.; Eileen Schouweiler, Republican National Committeewoman for Nevada in Reno, NV; Stuart Forth, retired director of libraries at Pennsylvania State University; and Jerry Parr, former Secret Service agent now in private security.

The two remaining Senate appointments are William Asp, Director, Minneapolis Library Development and Services; and Carol L. Wohlford, librarian, teacher, and principal and founder of Paideia Academy in Wichita, Kansas.

Members named earlier include Senate appointees Joan Reeves, Richard Ackeroyd, Jr., and Rebecca Ann Floyd; House appointees Virginia Young, Newlyn Murphy, Rep. William Ford, Rep. Major Owens, and Rep. Pat Williams. Remaining appointments include two from the White House.

With regard to the White House Conference, SLA shared some of its concerns and issues of note with the Executive Director of NCLIS. These concerns included: (1) ways the library community can work with the private sector in government information dissemination; (2) privatization; (3) the role of librarians in globaliza-

tion of information; (4) role played by special libraries; (5) strengthening public-private partnerships as federal funding dwindles; (6) maintaining open access to government information; (7) confidentiality of library records; (8) preservation of materials; and (9) marketing the profession and resources of librarians.

Privatization

OMB has revised its contracting out procedures specified in OBM Circular A-76. As part of its cost comparing studies, an agency must now include Social Security cost factors, miscellaneous fringe benefits (including thrift plans) costs, tax rates used for commercial businesses, and the federal pay raise assumptions for 1989-1993. These previously excluded additional calculations could make the difference in retention of some libraries under the federal sector.

Currently libraries at the Department of Education, Department of Interior, General Services Administration, and Immigration and Naturalization are under review by OMB and are experiencing cutbacks. One significant A-76 provision states that activities with fewer than 10 persons are exempt from the review process and can be contracted out immediately.

OMB Information Policy

OMB is soliciting comments regarding its policy concerning electronic dissemination of information by executive branch agencies. The proposed policy was published in the January 4, 1989 *Federal Register* and would amend OMB Circular A-130. It notes the importance of public information, but specific instructions to agencies tends to show deference to the private sector. For instance, the draft states that agencies should avoid offering value-added products to end users. An example is CD-ROM products would not include search and retrieval software. The draft also clarifies the requirement that agencies assess user charges for disseminating information. It makes no reference to the Depository Library Program. If the proposed revisions go into effect they would further restrict federal information dissemination activities, and signifi-

cant additional costs to users, including libraries. Libraries would pay the government for raw data, then pay a private business for software to access it. Comments regarding these amendments were due to OMB by March 6. The Association of Research Libraries has sent a letter to OMB recommending that a proposed policy statement on dissemination of information be put on hold until a full-scale public review of OMB Circular A-130 is begun and completed. Articles regarding the OMB proposal appeared in the *New York Times* on February 21, and in *Federal Computer Week*, January 23.

Pay Equity

Legislation providing for a pay equity study of the federal wage and classification scheme was defeated when the Senate failed to vote on the measure. One curious statement by Rep. Richard Armey (R-TX) emerged from the often heated debate. Rep. Armey in expressing doubt as to the objectivity of job content analyses, noted, "In Minnesota, librarians were valued 30% more highly than in Vermont. In Vermont, librarians were valued 20% more highly than in Iowa."(!) (*Congressional Record*, Sept. 29, p. H8991).

IRS and Non-profit Organizations

On December 23, 1988 (FR, p. 51826-45), the IRS issued proposed regulations regarding lobbying activities of non-profit organizations. These regulations define grassroots lobbying more narrowly than previous attempts. Up until now, the IRS used the standard that lobbying constitute "no substantial part" of a non-profit organization's activities. There has never been a precise definition of "substantial part." These current proposals, however, could result in a better understanding of what can and cannot be considered lobbying by the IRS.

FY1990 Budget

Libraries. President Reagan's 1990 budget document, *Building a Better America*, does not make it clear how libraries will fare, since the document mentions only a few specifics (not libraries). Bush is proposing a total of \$14.3 billion for new initiatives, \$441 million going to education. Most of this, however, is contingent on passage of new legislation before funding could be provided. The best that could result would be that \$441 million in new funding would be added to Reagan's budget freeze for Education Department programs, providing a

total of less than required to maintain present services.

OMB Director Darman has indicated that a long list of domestic programs are available for cuts to pay for Bush initiatives or congressional priorities. This category, totaling \$136 billion, has been dubbed the "black box" by Chairman Jim Sasser (D-TN) of the Senate Budget Committee. All Education Department discretionary programs, including libraries, fall in this category which, according to Darman at budget hearings, "is by definition a category that, from our perspective, is not as important." A minimum of \$10 billion must be cut from this category to reach the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings deficit reduction target.

The status of the Library Improvement Act proposal remains unclear now since libraries are in the "black box" category to be negotiated with Congress for possible cuts. Also, all new legislative proposals are on hold pending review by the Bush Administration.

Postal rates. The appropriation which subsidizes non-profit and preferred rates falls in the "black box" category referred to above and is thus a candidate for cuts. The postal service estimates that \$459,755,000 is needed to maintain rates at the current level. Presumably, then, this proposal is under review.

GPO. GPO Superintendent of Documents operation requested \$25,500,000 for FY1990, almost the same amount as received in FY1989 (\$25,155,000). The budget includes a request for one additional cataloger to reduce the backlog but no funds for electronic dissemination pilot programs. The budget also proposes that any remaining balances from FY1986-1989 after expenses are to be available for furnishing bound Congressional Record copies to depository libraries. In testifying before the House Legislative Appropriations Subcommittee on February 2, acting Public Printer Joseph Jenifer said he supported electronic dissemination to depository libraries.

Science and Tech. President Bush appears to be placing more importance on science in his administration. He proposes to elevate the White House Science Advisor to the rank of national security advisor. The director of the Office of Science and Technology is yet unnamed, but "will be an active member of high-level inter-agency policy groups, and will be involved with

the national security planning process" according to the budget message "Building a Better America."

Bush's science budget conforms with Reagan's \$14.9 billion and includes increases for NASA, DOE, and NSF. Bush's budget supports both the space station program and the super collider.

Use of Permanent Paper

Senator Pell (D-RI) reintroduced a joint resolution (S.J. Res. 57) on February 8 to establish a national policy to promote and encourage the printing of books and other publications of enduring value on nonacidic paper. The bill was cosponsored by 19 Senators. Sen. Pell, in his remarks, noted that the technology exists to implement this policy. Many paper mills already produce acid free papers and incentives for others to convert include potentially lowered manufacturing costs and substantially reduced environmental pollution. Prices for this paper are comparable. SLA issued a resolution supporting the action and commending Sen. Pell "for taking the lead in calling for such a national policy." It also resolves "that Congress approve the Joint Resolution and appropriate funding so that the plans for the implementation . . . can take shape." At this point, additional cosponsors are needed to move the legislation through Congress quickly. You are urged to write your Senators to encourage them to sign on as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 57.

OCLC News

The new president and chief executive officer of OCLC is K. Wayne Smith, a business executive and professor at Wake Forest University. Mr. Smith has a long career in business management/consulting. He has also worked as director of programs analysis for the National Security Council where he reported to Henry Kissinger, and at the RAND Corp.

OCLC is developing a new local system, the LS/X which will enable college and university researchers to tap into telecommunications linkages with the OCLC online database as well as local library databases and other information sources. Simple commands will retrieve bibliographic information, citation and full text databases with indexes, and electronic graphic and audio delivery systems. LS/X consists of three components: resource management, the local system that libraries buy from vendors; reference and information system to compliment the local system but provide access to external data; and

an information system which will provide full text files. Future plans are to add other local systems services such as circulation and serials control, but initially information delivery is the goal.

Federal Information Policy

A new Senate subcommittee, Government Information and Regulation Subcommittee, will be charged with drafting legislation and revising existing laws concerning federal information policy. Among them will be the Paperwork Reduction Act. Sen. John Glenn (D-OH), chairman of the Government Affairs Committee, suggested the reorganization. The likely chair of the new subcommittee is Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM). It will be devoted to broad information policy questions, and especially to issues involving federal data dissemination which it considers to be "increasingly important." The House of Representatives has had a special subcommittee on government information under its Government Operations Committee for 34 years.

The OTA report *Informing the Nation*, issued last October, recommends that Congress review guidelines on data dissemination and initiate legislation allowing public access to take precedence over commercial interests. Lack of Congressional leadership has allowed OMB to set information policy, and to ensure a strong role of the private sector in executive data dissemination. Hopefully, some changes to this policy will occur on the Hill.

Science Book Award

ASIS has awarded the 1988 Best Information Science Book Award to *Federal Information Policies in the 1980s: Conflicts and Issues*, by Charles R. McClure and Peter Hernon.

Leningrad Library

The Library of Congress and the Library of the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R. (BAN) signed a Memorandum of Agreement on June 17, 1988 regarding assistance following the fire in this Soviet library last February 14. The Academy Library agreed to recognize LC as the primary coordinator for international assistance efforts. Priorities include contact between preservation specialists and managers of both libraries; rapid text communications; and replacing the 188,000 non-Russian volumes destroyed by the fire.

LC has initiated bibliographic searching and locating for the materials included on two lists

of Academy materials completely destroyed. Specific subjects of the agreement include coordination and organization of assistance; conservation and preservation of the collection; replacement of collections destroyed; prevention and planning; and reciprocity.

The Memorandum notes that BAN has succeeded in drying 3,427,000 of the 3,602,000 volumes that suffered damage. Another 175,000 volumes remain in cold storage and will be processed according to recommendations of the International Foundation for the Survival of Humanity and UNESCO. The mold which affected 10,535 volumes has been eliminated. Number of volumes totally destroyed is estimated at 398,000 (210,000 Russian, and 188,000 in foreign languages). 75,000 of the 520,000 volumes in the historical Baer collection were damaged. Disinfection of the stacks was completed in 38 days and the 8.1 volumes suffering from water damage or at risk from mold returned to them.

BAN has recently announced that it will acquire Geac computers for automation of the library. Initial stages of the project to automate the Library's foreign periodicals management will begin after granting of export licenses for the computers.

National Translations Center Moved to LC

The National Translations Center (NTC) formerly located at the John Crerar Library of the University of Chicago is now part of LC. NTC is a depository of international translations and a referral center for helping users locate unpublished translations of foreign-language literature in the natural, physical, medical and social sciences. The files contain information on the

locations of about 1 million translations, of which 400,000 full text translations are held by the center. Translations prepared by government agencies, special libraries, scientific and professional societies, corporations, colleges and universities, etc. are cooperatively deposited at the center. They are indexed and announced in *Translations Register-Index* (1967-1986) and in *World Translations Index* (since 1987). Copies of translations are available for purchase.

At LC the center is under the direction of Charlene Woody of the Science and Technology Division. Inquiries about translations and deposits should be addressed to National Translations Center, LC, Washington, D.C. 20540, phone (202) 707-0100.

Office of Library Programs Issues New Book

Anne J. Mathews, Director of the Office of Library Programs at the U.S. Dept. of Education has edited a book entitled *Rethinking the Library in the Information Age: A Summary of Issues in Library Research*. The book summarizes nine essays that were part of a project addressing the future of libraries. The last section is a series of questions raised by 40 librarians, educators, policymakers, etc. at meetings which were a part of the project. Ten key issues are identified including information access, funding, library education of users, information organization and retrieval, policy issues on federal, state and local levels; education of librarians, etc. To obtain a copy of this summary or the project on which it is based, or for a complete copy of the essays contact Office of Library Programs, Office of Educational Research and Improvement, U.S. Dept. of Education, 555 New Jersey Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20202, (202) 357-6293.

Call for Poster Sessions

During the Marketing Swap & Shop, a number of concurrent, informal Poster Sessions will be given by special librarians who are willing to describe their successful marketing activities to others. If you have an activity which has been a useful marketing tool for your library, why not volunteer to do a session? You will be provided with a bulletin board and table on which to display your materials and any visuals which illus-

trate your work. The attendees can then stop by and hear about your activities and ask questions. This is an easy way to contribute your knowledge and experience to your professional organization, so call one of the organizers today if you are interested, before all the slots are filled! The Swap & Shop is scheduled for Monday, June 12, from 10:30 until noon.

To volunteer or to get more information, call: Liz Bibby, Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta, 404-888-8263 or Robin Raquet, Georgia-Pacific Corporation, 404-521-4659.